

2013-J5279

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis, of New Dorp, New York, and paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced Operation Enduring Freedom will ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably during Operation Enduring Freedom, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body mourns the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis of New Dorp, New York, and pays tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis, age 24, died on August 28, 2013, in eastern Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in New Dorp, New York, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis graduated from Petrides High School where he played soccer and was a member of the color guard; he joined the United States Air Force Junior ROTC in his freshman year at Petrides and participated through his senior year; and

WHEREAS, Army Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis will receive the Silver Star posthumously, the military's third highest decoration, for his valor and bravery while saving the life of a Polish officer; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the Silver Star, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold

Ollis will receive the Gold Medal of the Polish Armed Forces from the Polish government, and the Oakwood Heights Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be renamed in his honor; and

WHEREAS, A great American and a hero in the truest sense of the word, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis displayed the ultimate act of heroism; his leadership, selflessness and bravery will forever serve as a reminder that freedom isn't free; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis is survived by his parents, Bob and Linda Ollis; two sisters, Kimberly (Billy) and Kelly (Dave); and five nieces and nephews, William, Joseph, Thomas, Ava, and Matthew; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis, of New

Dorp, New York, and paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Michael Harold Ollis.